

Remarks

In the official action, the Examiner asserts that the Declaration filed in this application is defective.

With all due respect to the Examiner, the Examiner is mistaken. Enclosed herewith is a photocopy of the originally filed oath. The typographical error to which the Examiner makes reference does not exist. It seems that the Examiner is making the assertion set forth in the official action based upon a faulty scanning of the original application by the USPTO as opposed to any fault in the application itself.

Since the error appears to lie with the USPTO as opposed to the Applicant, the Applicant suggests that the USPTO should rescan the application to ensure that it is scanned correctly.

The Examiner requested that Figure 1 be amended to include a designation such as "Prior Art." As the Examiner will note by reference to the amendments made in this response, the suggested legend has been added to Figure 1. As such, it is believed that the objection to the drawings may now be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to the specification since the element number "14" used to designate the retainer was incorrect. As the Examiner will note by reference to the specification amendments made above, that number has been changed from number "14" to number "24" thereby overcoming that problem.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being unclear. The problem appears to be with the word "linear" in originally filed claim 15. As the Examiner will note by reference to the claim amendments made to this application, the word "linear" has been deleted, and therefore it is believed that this grounds for rejection may now be properly withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 12 and 14-19 as allegedly being fully anticipated by US

Amendments to the drawings

The legend -- Prior Art - - has been added to FIG. 1 of the application.

Enclosure: Replacement sheet

Patent No. 6,082,244 to Siegel, et al. and rejected claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over certain prior art mentioned by the Examiner in the official action.

The Examiner will note by reference to the amendments made above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation heretofore in claim 8. With respect to the rejections made by the Examiner, the Applicant has the following comments. Originally filed claim 8, and now claim 1, include certain limitations that are not taught by the prior art. The Examiner rejected claim 8 as allegedly being fully anticipated by US Patent No. 6,082,244. However, it is not seen how each and every limitation set forth in originally filed claim 8 is anticipated by the cited US Patent. For example, old claim 8, and now new claim 1, specifically recite that the sleeve has "around an outer circumferential surface thereof, a step, so that the sleeve surrounds an outer circumferential surface of the low-pressure piston part and an outer circumferential surface of the high-pressure piston part..." The Examiner points to Figure 1 of the cited US Patent, but does not explain how these limitations are allegedly met thereby. Certainly, Siegel's low-pressure piston part 20 is not surrounded by a sleeve 18 much less does sleeve 18 have a "step" as claimed. Element 18 of Siegel is actually a "bush bottom" that is formed integral with a "bush 12." However, the figures of Siegel clearly show that neither the bush 12 nor its bottom 18 come in contact with either the low or the high-pressure portion of the cylinder.

Additionally, it is not understood how originally filed claim 6 is allegedly anticipated by Siegel. Claim 6 recites that the low-pressure piston part has a smaller diameter than the high-pressure piston part which the Examiner alleges to be disclosed by Siegel's tapered end. Claim 6 has been amended slightly to recite that the references to the diameters are taken with respect to the diameters which occur with respect to a major portion of their respective lengths so as to more clearly differentiate claim 6 from Siegel.

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

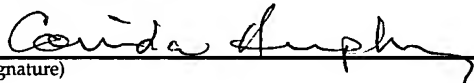
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February 23, 2005

(Date of Deposit)

Corinda Humphrey


(Name of Person Signing)


(Signature)

February 23, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures:

Replacement Sheet (Figure 1)

Copy of declaration (4 pages)